(e) the names and the number of aircraft which were damaged most in the normal accidents?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The year-wise details are as under:

Aircraft lost in accidents

1997-98	17
1998-99	23
1999-2000	27

(c) 34 pilots died in these accidents.

(d) 3 aircrafts were lost during the Kargil operations.

(e) A maximum of 38 MIG 21 aircrafts have been lost in these accidents.

Problems Faced by Indian Soldiers Serving in Sierra Leone

1894. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI R. K. ANAND:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian soldiers serving in the United Nations' Mission in Sierra Leone are not getting the letters written by their families;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Indian soldiers are not receiving their salaries which are paid by U.N.;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to solve the difficulties being faced by the Indian soldiers serving in Sierra Leone?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) There was a disruption in the mail service

to our troops, due to disturbed situation prevailing in Sierra Leone as well as irregular flights from Accra to Freetown. This problem has since been resolved by routing the mail through Conakry. Our troops are receiving their mail regularly now.

The Indian soldiers serving in the UNAMSIL Mission, Sierra Leone are receiving their full entitlements of overseas allowances and the same is being credited to their individual accounts in banks in India. It has not been possible so far to disburse overseas allowances to the Indian soldiers in US dollars in Sierra Leone, due to the inability of the banks in Sierra Leone to handle cash in dollars. Efforts are being made to disburse overseas allowances to the soldiers in US dollars through a neighbouring African country.

Meanwhile, orders have been issued to for sending one IAF aircraft on courier service to Sierra Leone every month with a view to facilitate disbursement of overseas allowances and also carry other items including those for personal use of the Indian troops.

Violation of Indian Skies

† 1895. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents registered during the year 1999 and till July, 2000 for violation of Indian skies and land border;

(b) the number of incidents out of above which have been countered;

(c) the number of violators killed and arrested; and

(d) the details of the action taken to check such violations?

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.